

Message Text

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40

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 H-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 EB-11

LAB-06 SIL-01 PM-07 CIEP-03 OMB-01 DRC-01 /097 W

----- 018999

R 121140Z SEP 74 CTG #0642M

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1800

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS DURBAN 0324

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF, US

SUBJ: AFRICAN TRADE UNION REQUESTS CONG. DIGGS ASSISTANCE
FOLLOWING STRIKE AT U.S.-OWNED COMPANY

REF: DURBAN 318

1. S U M M A R Y

OMAR BADSHA, SECRETARY OF (AFRICAN) CHEMICAL WORKERS INDUSTRIAL UNION, HAS CABLED CONGRESSMAN DIGGS ASKING FOR CLARIFICATION USG POLICY ON RECOGNITION OF AFRICAN UNIONS BY U.S. SUBSIDIARIES OPERATING IN SOUTH AFRICA. ALSO REQUESTED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR AFRICAN WORKERS LIKELY TO BE PROSECUTED AS RESULT RECENT STRIKE AT AMERICAN FIRM.

E N D S U M M A R Y

2. REQUEST TO DIGGS STEMMED FROM STRIKE AT U.S.-OWNED STERLING DRUG COMPANY IN DURBAN WHICH STARTED SEPT 6 (REFTEL) AND ENDED TODAY FOLLOWING INTERVENTION SOLOMON NGOBESE, CHIEF URBAN REPRESENTATIVE KWAZULU GOVT (COMPANY REFUSED TO NEGOTIATE WITH EITHER UNION REPS OR ELEVEN-MEMBER COMMITTEE

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CHOSEN BY STRIKERS). TERMS OF SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATED BY
NGOBESE INCLUDED RE-HIRING OF ENTIRE WORK FORCE BY COMPANY
WITH NO BREAK IN SERVICE (IMPORTANT FOR SUPPLEMENTARY BENE-
FITS SUCH AS EDUCATION ALLOWANCES TO CHILDREN, PENSION
RIGHTS, ETC), FULL PAYMENT FOR TIME MISSED BUT WITH AMOUNT
TO BE DEDUCTED FROM ANNUAL VACATION, USUAL SEASONAL REDUCTION
IN WORK FORCE TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY COMPANY IN NEAR FUTURE
AT ITS DISCRETION, NO PAY INCREASES. ALTHOUGH REFUSING TO
RECOGNIZE AFRICAN UNION IN ANY WAY, COMPANY INFORMALLY
AGREED TO ELECTION OF WORKS COMMITTEE WITHIN ITS PLANT AS
PROVIDED BY LAW "WHEN WORK FORCE IS STABILIZED".

3. ACCORDING TO AMERICAN MANAGER, NAMES OF ALL STRIKERS
WERE PROVIDED AT INSISTENCE LABOR DEPT, WHICH APPARENTLY
PLANS PROSECUTE THEM FOR ILLEGALLY STRIKING. MANAGER IN-
FORMED BY HIS LEGAL ADVISOR HE OBLIGED BY LAW COOPERATE
WITH LABOR DEPT THIS RESPECT, ALTHOUGH HE WOULD PREFER NO
PROSECUTION TAKE PLACE. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT HUNDREDS OF
AFRICANS INVOLVED IN SEVERAL RECENT NATAL STRIKES WILL SOON
BE SUBJECTED TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION IN ACCORDANCE NEW HARD
LINE OF MINISTER OF LABOR AS WAY OF CONTROLLING CONTINUING
INDUSTRIAL UNREST.
HOLMES

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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